(e) if not, by when it is to be launched in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Gujarat have reported that they have been running a subsidised scheme of distribution of wheat at Rs. 2 per Kg. to all families below poverty line since May, 1995 knows as Food For Poor (FFP). State Government has dovetailed the new PDS with their FFP Scheme and has continued to provide wheat at Rs. 2 per Kg. to BPL population under Targeted PDS. Rice will be available to all card holders at normal PDS rates. Under the TPDS ten Kg. of foodgrains per family per month are provided. Government of Gujarat is distributing to BPL families @ 2.5 Kg per person subject to a ceiling of 12.5 kg per family per month. State Government has identified 36% of the population to be covered under the scheme as against 24.21% below poverty line population as per the Expert Group. Additional expenditure will be borne by the State Govt. itself. The State Government has issued white ration cards to all BPL beneficiaries.

(c) The TPDS has started in Gujarat State w.e.f. 1.6.97.

(d) State, District, Taluk and Village level Vigilance Committees have been set up and are functioning. Government of Gujarat have issued orders for granting "Right of Information" to all card holders. All Sarpanchs of concerned villages are informed about the issues made to their fair price shop owners through Post Card.

(e) Does not arise.

FCI's Preference for Hired Storage Capacity

1263. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India (FCI) continues to prefer hired storage capacity instead of using its own storage which remain under-utilised;

(b) if so, whether Government's attention has been drawn to newsitem captioning 'FCI underutilise capacity' appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 11th July, 1997; and

(c) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Food Corporation of India uses storage capacity by taking on hire from other agencies namely; Central Warehosuing Corporation, State Warehosuing Corporation, State Governments and other private agencies. Hiring and de-hiring of storage capacity is a continuous process based on requirement. During procurement season the CAP storage is hired for short duration and de-hired when no longer required. As fluctuations in procurement or off-take cannot be estimated accurately, sometimes storage capacity remains under utilised.